

alloying zirconia with a first stabilizer comprising yttria and a second stabilizer selected from the group of [yttria,] ceria, magnesia, ytterbia, scantia, dysprosia, neodymia, and calcia [, the stabilizer being present in a quantity of between about 5% and 25% relative to the zirconia by weight];

powderizing the alloyed stabilized zirconia;

spray-drying the stabilized zirconia powder to produce an agglomerated powder having an average particle size suitable for use in spray coating applications.

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3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 [2], wherein the yttria is present in a quantity of between about 6% and 10% relative to the zirconia.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the yttria is present in a quantity of about 8% relative to the zirconia.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least a substantial portion of the stabilized zirconia powder comprises particles having a size of no more than about an order of magnitude smaller than an average particle size of the agglomerated powder.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the stabilized zirconia powder has an average particle size of no more than about 10 microns.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the agglomerated powder has an average particle size in the range of between about 11 and 150 microns.

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28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second stabilizer comprises ceria.
29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second stabilizer comprises ytterbia.
30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second stabilizer comprises magnesia.
31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second stabilizer comprises scantia.
32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second stabilizer comprises dysprosia.
33. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second stabilizer comprises neodymia.
34. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second stabilizer comprises calcia.